

## **APPROVED-4/26/12**

**There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, April 12, 2012 at the Cumberland High School Transitional Building Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.**

**Members Present: Jeff Mutter, Lisa Beaulieu, Linda Teel, Daniel Pedro (arrived at 7:40 p.m.), Earl Wood. John Gibbons and Erika Sanzi were absent.**

**Administration Present: Dr. Philip Thornton, Superintendent, Joseph A. Rotella, Director of Administration**

### **Agenda Item #1: Chairman Convenes Meeting**

**Chairman Mutter convened the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.**

### **Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda**

**Mr. Wood made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 4-0. Mr. Pedro had not yet arrived.**

### **Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda**

**A. Approval of minutes – Special meeting 3/20/12, Regular meeting 3/22/12 and Special meeting/budget 3/27/12 and B. Approval of minutes – Executive session 3/22/12 – Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve minutes for special meeting 3/20/12, regular meeting 3/22/12, special meeting/budget 3/27/12 and executive session 3/22/12, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 4-0. Mr. Pedro had not yet arrived.**

### **Agenda Item #5: Report of Executive Session Meeting on 4/11/2012**

**A. Report of Executive Session Vote – Mr. Mutter stated that the SC**

**voted 4-1 (Mrs. Sanzi in the negative) to support Superintendent Thornton's recommendation of ICSE employee termination. Mr. Pedro and Mrs. Beaulieu were absent from this meeting.**

**B. Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session – Mr. Wood made a motion to seal the minutes, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 4-0. Mr. Pedro had not yet arrived.**

#### **Agenda Item #6: Report of Executive Session Meeting on 4/12/2012**

**A. Report of Executive Session Vote**

**B. Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session**

**This meeting was cancelled.**

#### **Agenda Item #7: Superintendent's Report**

**A. Ongoing Discussion – Achievement and Student Success Policy**

**1) Grading Policy 2) Cheating and 3) Plagiarism Policy – Dr. Thornton started off by acknowledging Jay Masterson – Assistant Principal of NCMS – who completed his dissertation at Johnson and Wales and is now Dr. Jay Masterson. Congratulations to Dr. Masterson!! Dr. Thornton noted that most of the districts have been grading the same way for many years – he wants grading to match how we are teaching the kids – he has reviewed the policy and wants consistency and fairness, wants teachers to measure student proficiency, level the playing field, he would like to minimize the difference in grading between teachers. He showed some slides of standard based report cards. Elementary and middle school teachers have met with Fred Schockaert – Deputy Director of Special Education and together they have come up with sample report cards**

– looking at trimesters. There will be rubrics on the report cards with a lot more information for parents to review. The information will be linked to what the teachers are teaching the students. The new report cards will be implemented at K-8 level, however, at the high school level there is more work to be done. So far at the high school level they have done a survey with the teachers and it looks like they will go to a grading policy of A, B, C or F – no D's. Mrs. Beaulieu asked why the elementary school report card seemed more detailed than the middle school report card. Dr. Drolet said that right now they are adding pictures of the teachers and are adding feedback for the parents – but in 2013-14 they will transition to power standards and at that point the report card will be standard based and will have much more information. Dr. Thornton wanted to remind everyone that on May 23rd Tom Guskey will be coming to Cumberland to talk about Grading Practice Concepts – it will be in the high school auditorium – more details to follow.

#### **Agenda Item #8: Chairperson's Report**

Mr. Mutter wanted to thank Mayor McKee and the Town Council for approving the \$375,000 for capital items – the resolution was unanimously approved by Town Council on 4/4/12. Also, Dr. Thornton gave an update on redistricting and full day K, he noted that the Durham map would not be changing from the last map – and they are currently looking at 1:55 for high school dismissal. He will put the map on the website as soon as it is completely cleaned up – at that point he will begin scheduling meet and greets, etc.

## **Agenda Item #9: Comments from the Public**

**No comments at this time.**

## **Agenda Item #10: Reports of Standing Committees**

**A. Payment of Bills – Mr. Wood made a motion to pay invoices totaling \$1,373,333.77, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 5-0.**

**B. Achievement and Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that they are resuming face to face – after school vacation, April 23 and April 25 – they will discuss power standard's, assessment strategies, Necap scores, and will be asking faculty for comments.**

**C. Policy and Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Teel thanked everyone for their participation in this committee – it is a lot of work and she appreciates everyone's input and help. Mrs. Teel noted that they have recently completed work on JECB Early Admittance Policy, IGT-RA Computer/Internet/Electronic Device Usage Policy (so far very effective at the high school), and IHCFC-A Preschool Tuition Policy. Next meeting will be early May at 6:30 p.m.**

## **Agenda Item #11: New Business**

**A. Home School Instruction Requests 2011-2012 – Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve Dr. Thornton's requests, 2nd Mr. Pedro, approved 5-0.**

**B. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Amended Acceptable Use Policy IGT-RA Computer/Internet/Electronic Device Usage – Mrs. Teel made a motion to table this policy until 4/26/12 SC meeting, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 5-0. Mrs. Beaulieu asked is this policy matches**

**what is in the handbook and Mrs. Teel said she did not know, but Dr. Thornton said that the policy would supersede the handbook.**

**C. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Amended – IHCFC-A Preschool Tuition Policy – Mrs. Teel made a motion to amend the policy to include the following: the rate for pre-school tuition for community partners (students) will be set on a yearly basis based upon fiscal considerations, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 5-0. Then Mr. Wood made a motion to approve IHCFC-A Preschool Tuition Policy as amended, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 5-0.**

**D. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Amended – JECB Early Admittance Policy – Mrs. Teel made a motion to table this policy, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 5-0.**

**E. Pursuant to the RIGL 42-46-5 – Exception (1) Personnel Matters: (1) ICSE Employee Termination Hearing Decision – Mr. Mutter noted that on a 4-1 vote, Mrs. Sanzi in the negative, the SC voted to uphold the Superintendent's decision to terminate the ICSE employee.**

**F. Discussion and/or Vote on the Non-Renewal of Administrator's Contract – Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to table this item until the 4/26/12 SC meeting, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 5-0.**

**G. Discussion and/or Vote to Approve Employee Contracts for – 1) Director of Special Education, 2) Deputy Director of Special Education, 3) Business Manager, 4) Middle School Principals, 5) Elementary Principals, 6) High School Assistant Principals, 7) Middle School Assistant Principals, 8) Preschool Director, 9) Director of Information Technology, 10) Network Manager, 11) District Support Technician – Mr. Mutter asked that this gets referred back to the**

**Fiscal Management Sub-committee for review and then be back on the agenda for 4/26/12 SC meeting. Mr. Wood noted that it would be on the Fiscal Management Sub-committee agenda for 4/26/12 at 7:00 p.m. for review. Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to table this item, 2nd Mr. Pedro, approved 5-0.**

## **Agenda Item #12: Personnel Recommendations**

**Mr. Rotella had the following personnel recommendations:**

### **Retirement**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of Paula Maloney, Principal, at B. F. Norton Elementary School, effective 6/30/2012.**

### **Leaves of Absence**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the FMLA Maternity Leave of Alicia DeStefani, Special Educator, at Community School, effective 5/28/2012 to the end of the 2011-12 school year. (Budgeted)**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the FMLA Maternity Leave of Valerie Enos, Special Educator at Ashton School, effective 5/29/2012 to the end of the 2011-12 school year. (Budgeted)**

**Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve the above personnel recommendations, 2nd Mr. Pedro, approved 5-0.**

**Dr. Thornton noted how he has been impressed by BFN and Paula Maloney and the SC also commented on Mrs. Maloney – fierce leader, always encouraged everyone to succeed – everyone will miss Mrs.**

**Maloney.**

**Agenda Item #13: Comments from the Public**

**No comments at this time.**

**Agenda Item #14: School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports)**

**Mrs. Beaulieu wanted to thank Ashton and Garvin Schools for inviting her to reading week. She also mentioned the Clef Singers and how great their reunion performance was.**

**Agenda Item #15: Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion on Items Referred to in RIGL 42-46-5:**

**A) Personnel Matters –Exception (1) B) Negotiations/Litigation – Exception (2), C) Reconvene into Open Session, D) Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session – per Mr. Rotella – no Executive Session tonight.**

**Agenda Item #16: Adjournment**

**Mr. Pedro made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 5-0.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.**

**Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony**